

Willie Blount to Andrew Jackson, August 14, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

WILLIE BLOUNT TO JACKSON.

Nashville, August 14, 1813.

Sir. I have been notified by the Secy. War¹ that the General Government, satisfied of the hostility of a portion of the creek nation, has determined that it is necessary to order a campaign to be carried on against a portion of the creek Indians to punish them for their hostility; and that fifteen hundred of the Militia of Tennessee are relied on to compose a part of the force to be employed, tho' as yet he has not given me orders to have them raised, requesting information first when they could be assembled, and whether it would be advisable for the Georgia and Tennessee Corps to act in concert, or not, upon the expedition. I have given him my ideas on these heads, and have suggested the propriety of his ordering five thousand men from this state to be called out, to act with others relied on, in preference to calling out only the fifteen hundred,

¹ Armstrong's letter to Gov. Blount, July 13, 1813, is as follows: "Information through various channels have reached the government, of the hostility of a portion of the Creek nation, and of the necessity of breaking it down by some prompt and vigorous measures. Those which suggest themselves as most efficient are, the embodying a portion of the Tennessee militia who (as circumstances may direct) shall act separately against the Enemy, or in concert with another corps of militia drawn from Georgia. It is believed that fifteen hundred men from each of these states, and the 3d Regiment of United States Infantry will be competent to this object, and the more so, as the Creek nation is understood to be pretty equally marshalled against itself. If a union of the corps be thought

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necessary, it should be made in the Cherokee Country and by concert between yourself and Govr. of Georgia to whom a copy of this letter is sent. Your Excellencys ideas on this last subject, and an intimation of the time at which the detachment may be assembled will be acceptable”.

relying as I do very confidently on the promptitude of our militia in attending to the call of Government in either case: I have further stated to him, that they would to the number of five thousand, rendezvous within twenty days from the receipt of his orders to have them embodied, after being furnished and supplied etc. Had I been notified of the proportion of Infantry, Cavalry, Mounted men, Volunteers etc calculated upon by Government to compose the detachment, the whole number could in a very short time, have been ready on our part to take the field—however under the expectation that orders thus explicit will shortly be received, I hope and believe, that every attention will be given throughout the state towards being prepared to act at a moments warning, let the force required be what it may; and the more so, in consequence of the “authentic information of a meditated attack on our frontier to be made by the creeks” which information I have just received from Col. Benjamin Hawkins, Agent of the United States, resident in the Creek Nation, and communicated at his request to me, through Governor Mitchell of Georgia,² by express.

2 David B. Mitchell, governor of Georgia 1809–1813, 1815–1817.

In consequence of the receipt of the above information thus formally made and communicated to me, it becomes my duty to order that defensive measures should be immediately taken throughout the State, the better to guard against evils which might otherwise be experienced from the Creek Indians, in the event of their making an actual attack on any part of our frontier as now, by them meditated.

You are therefore required without delay to put your division of Militia in the best possible state for defence, by notifying them of said meditated attack by the creeks, “and by requiring of them to be ready to act as the militia law of this State authorizes in such cases, and by ordering them, or any part of them at a moments warning to repel any attack

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or invasion that may be made or threatned by near approach within any part of the limits of your division, and to treat the invaders as enemies to our peace. And in the event of an attack made, or of your certain Knowledge of the approach of the enemy towards and threat'ning an invasion of our territory and found within our limits, you will instantly order out, embody and march a competent force not only to repel them, but you will chastise them as common enemies any where within our limits, or without the limits of our State if within reasonable distance of our frontier; provided a knowledge of circums[tances] should dictate to you the propriety of such further [action] in order the better to secure the safety of our frontier inhabitants.

You will without delay upon the receipt of information of the approach of an invading enemy, communicate it to me, together with such orders as you may or shall from time to time issue. And you will also cause regular muster rolls of the men engaged in service under such orders to be made and transmitted, together with an account at stated periods, of expenditures made or to be made for all necessary supplies of equipments merits and provisions which I feel confident will be made by your orders to the regimental Quarter Masters, in the most judicious and economical manner, and so as best to promote public good, and the safety of the frontier of your division.

The policy of the United States towards friendly tribes of Indians is such as will dictate you the propriety of treating those well whom you may find professing friendship and who acting according to their peaceable habits for some years past have a right to expect good treatment, such should be well treated, unless a departure from their former good conduct should teach the Propriety of treating them otherwise. I am very respectfully Your Obt
Servant.